

ONE ANOTHER

By Keith Greer

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” {Hebrews 10:22-25}
Regarding our relationship in Christ toward one another we are to:

CONSIDER. *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” {Matthew 7:12}* In our above passage the Hebrew writer instructed to “consider one another” to provoke them to do good works. God’s children are to show some concern for one another. How can we “consider” what our brethren needs if we do not know them? What about those who are spiritually weak? *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” {Galatians 6:1,2}*

SUBMIT. *“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.” {Ephesians 5:21}* How do we “submit” to one another? Simply by placing ourselves in a position to offer assistance to whatever our brethren may need from us. Comfort, understanding, compassion, encouragement, or just letting them know they can count on me. One cannot truly submit to another if they are selfish or self-centered. *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” {Philippians 2:3,4}*

EXHORT. *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” {Hebrews 3:13}* Exhort means “to make urgent appeal, to urge by strong stirring argument or admonition.” Do we take the time and make the effort to exhort one another to give more of themselves to His cause? Do we seek for opportunities that we can exhort one another to a higher involvement in the Lord’s work? Remember the word of Jude, *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” {Jude 3}*

FORBEAR. *“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.” {Ephesians 4:2}* Forbearance is defined as “tolerance and restraint in the face of provocation; patience.” God’s children are not perfect and we all are different. Sometimes brethren need to be more forbearing with one another because a brother or sister does not act or react like I would in a given situation. Why would we believe the worst instead of the better and give them the benefit of the doubt? How would we like them to be with us?

LOVE. *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” {John 13:34,35}* One of the character traits that should be interwoven into every fabric of our relationship with one another is love. Love needs to be the motive behind each and every one of our actions. Our close relationship is to be evident to others when they observe us.

Christians have a very different relationship between “one another” than most people in the world can ever understand. Each of us has a common bond, common belief and a common goal. God well understood that the majority of the world would reject Him and His cause. So His people would be even more in the minority. God’s gift to offset the discouragement the world would inflict on us was each other! Failure to regard “one another” causes many problems in the Lord’s church. We can do better! ***